

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES NEW SHIPPING SERVICE TO PORT OF WILMINGTON**  
*First New Container Shipping Service to Use New 42 -Foot Channel*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today a new weekly trans-Pacific container service from China to the Port of Wilmington. In the first year of operation, business activities resulting from this new shipping service will represent 350 direct jobs, with additional statewide economic benefits of 20,600 related jobs and \$1.5 million in state and local tax revenues.

“The arrival of this new shipping service in North Carolina clearly demonstrates that our investing in the Port of Wilmington is a smart investment that is yielding additional jobs and economic prosperity for the state,” Easley said. “Industries across our great state depend on this gateway as their ticket to international trade and this port will help to ensure that we export North Carolina products, not North Carolina jobs.”

Beginning in less than six weeks, the growing north China market will be directly accessible to North Carolina businesses, industries and consumers through the use of this new service. Two world-class shipping partners, Zim Integrated Shipping Services and Lloyd Triestino, will operate the service. The first port call will be made in Wilmington in early February. These shipping partners are the first carriers to begin service at the Port of Wilmington since Governor Easley announced the completion of a 42-foot navigation channel last January.

"The new service to north China is critical to the aggressive distribution center recruitment initiative the Ports Authority has launched," said Carl J. Stewart Jr., chairman of the N. C. State Ports Authority Board of Directors. "We expect service by these world-class carriers in Wilmington will attract retail distribution centers to establish operations in southeastern North Carolina in the very near future, as well as offer additional opportunities for North Carolina's furniture industry."

“With deep water, available container storage capacity and our central location, the Port of Wilmington offers a new U.S. East Coast alternative to shipping companies,” said Tom Eagar, Chief Executive Officer of the Ports Authority. “Ongoing improvements to the container terminal will make Wilmington even more attractive.”

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